

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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HE IS SO RIGHT

Now that the City election is over, The Mirror would like to commend one of the successful candidates for something he said during the campaigning.

Quite explicitly, he pointed out that every New Bernian who visits City Hall, whatever may be the nature of his or her business, is entitled to courteous treatment.

As he said, elected and appointed officials, and all employees working under their supervision, are public servants. They are paid by the citizens, are accountable to the citizens, and are not accorded the privilege of biting the hand that feeds them.

We would not leave the impression that rudeness is the rule at City Hall. That it does crop up from time to time should be obvious to all of us, and every now and then is much too often.

Insulting the public isn't confined to City Hall. You'll find similar behavior once in awhile at the County Courthouse and the Federal Building, and the pattern extends far beyond the boundaries of New Bern to every corner of the globe.

The public itself isn't always above blame in this respect. Some citizens who come calling can be pretty obnoxious, and when they behave insultingly without cause they can hardly expect to be handled with kid gloves.

We're not pleading their case, but we are solidly behind the person who accords respect to the public servant he approaches, and gets pushed around in return. Working for the City, County, State or Uncle Sam doesn't place an individual on a pedestal.

Some of the most beloved and most respected mortals this town has ever known were public servants. Fortunately, we still have such people around, and The Mirror wishes they could live forever.

They didn't become beloved, or respected, by pulling rank and throwing their weight around. They achieved this distinction, through no deliberate intent, simply by practicing human decency in their dealings with mankind.

If you're subjected to rude or unfair treatment, you can do something about it. Complain to somebody higher up. If you don't get results, bide your time until the next election and vote out the official or officials who turned a deaf ear to you.

Never lose sight of the fact that public opinion is the strongest force in a free land. And you'll discover, if you stand your ground, that no one employed in a public office will want to tangle with you.

Once upon a time, at City Hall here, an 80 year old lady had the window slammed in her face, as she tried to pay her water and light bill. The clock struck five as she reached the window, so the employee closed shop then and there.

She trudged back home, and decided to call a newspaper reporter. It happened to be us. We wrote the story. When it came out in print, she got special treatment immediately.

City Hall sent a certain party to her home, armed with an apology, sufficient change to take care of whatever size money she might have, and instructions to receipt her bill when paid.

That little old lady, well past 90 now, hasn't had any more windows slammed in her face, at least not at City Hall. It just goes to show you that a citizen is not without recourse.

Incidentally, we voted last Tuesday for the candidate who had the gumption to say City Hall should be courteous. Enough other folks did too.

Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

CHARLES CHURCHILL VS. SHADRACH HOOVER--MARCH TERM 1805 PART II

Deposition of Mary Whitford. Deponent says in behalf of the plaintiff that she was well acquainted with John Purify and that a short time before he died in 1804, that while in a conversation with said John who was then on a large white horse, when she observed that he had better be occupying his land at Beard's Creek than be riding about the streets, when said John observed that he had sold his land at Beard's Creek to John Sheffield and that he had received that horse he was upon in part payment, and that he was well satisfied with the sale of his land as he could sell the horse for double the money which he gave for him and that she believes that said John was of age when he sold his land to John Sheffield, as she was knowing of his selling a part of a lot of land to William Fulcher of New Bern for some time before he sold his Beard's Creek land to said Sheffield, as she knows that Mrs. Alice Sanders's daughter and John Purify was both children together, although she cannot testify to the day of his birth, yet she believes Mary Luteman knows his age as she was nurse of said John Purify. Also Mrs. Alice Sanders who was a near neighbor and a relation and this deponent further saith that she heard John Purify acknowledge at several different time after he had sold his land to Sheffield that he was of age before the deed was executed. The above deposition sworn to by M. Whitford at the store of Charles Churchill, 14 Nov. 1808, before Lucas J. Benners, a Justice of Craven County.

The jury find: The plaintiff proved that the land was held by John Bedscott and his tenants under known and visible boundaries from 1763 to 1773 when David Purify intermarried with his daughter and settled upon the land.

The plaintiff proved that John Bedscott has made a deed to Purify for the land, but declared it never had been recorded and could not be produced.

David Purify lived upon the land from 1773 to 1785 when he died. By his will proved June 1785, he devised the land to his wife for life, remainder to his son David in fee, from whom it descended to John Purify, who sold to John Sheffield 30 August 1800, who conveyed to the lessor of the plaintiff, 31 March 1804. From the death of David Purify his widow and devisees for life occupied the land till her death in 1789, from her decease, John Bedscott as guardian to Purify, a devisee, let the land for his said devisee use. John Bedscott died in 1798 or there-

Village Verses

A SISTER'S LAMENT

Daddy has worries, and so does Mother,
But my biggest worry is a little brother;
He teases my dolls, and pulls out their hair,
And he scatters my playthings everywhere.
When I want to read, he makes lots of noise —
An awful nuisance, I think, are boys;
When I skip rope, he's in the way,
And you should hear the things he'll say.
He's much too small to ride my bike,
Or do the other things I like;
And yet, each day from sun to sun
It seems he's sure to spoil my fun.
With him around, my life's a mess,
And still, this much I must confess:
Just like Daddy and just like Mother,
He owns my heart, my little brother.
—JGMCD.

abouts.

(After his death, his son, John Bedscott, was on the land and declared he should act as guardian to John Purify, then the heir to his brother, David, thereafter was on the land one year. Reed was on the land one year, scratched).

One year the land was not tended nor house occupied. In 1800 Sheffield entered and leased to Banks for 4 years, including the year 1804. Banks occupied three years. In 1804, the defendant entered as tenant for the year under Sheffield.

Defendant proved that Mrs. Knowis, wife of Phillip Knowis was the surviving child of John Bedscott, and with John Purify his heir at law. Knowis and wife sold to Levi Wayne, 26 August, 1802, but she was not privately examined and is still living Wayne conveyed to defendant, January 1805, from which time defendant having continued on the land claimed adversely to plaintiff.

Plaintiff proved that Knowis acknowledged before his deed to Wayne that he had got John Bed-

scott's deed to David Purify in his possession and destroyed it.

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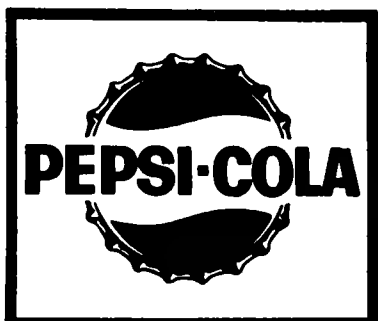
I am deeply grateful for the confidence placed in me by the citizens of New Bern.

As your alderman from the fifth ward, I will, to the best of my ability and in keeping with the will of the people, serve you in a manner that will justify your faith in me.

—DURWOOD W. HANCOCK

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